Joint Programme Advisory Committees (PACs) in major Doordarshan Kendras and AIR Stations have been constituted, consisting of eminent personalities from different disciplines/interest groups, to review the programmes telecast/broadcast and to suggest improvement in the planning and presentation of the future programmes.

Ill Effect of day and night Telecast of Programmes

1351. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the ill effects of the day and night (24 hours) telecast of programmes on the public especially growing children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that a study was ocnducted in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The study has brought out the following ill-effects of day and night telecast of programmes:-

(1) It affects studies and health of children.

(2) It affects the eyesight of the children.

(3) It gives rise to complaints of absenteesim, consequent on late night viewing,

(4) It affects concentration in studies.

(5) It creats some behavioural problems like disobedience, violent reaction, giving back answers etc.

(6) Some members of public were of the view that they were not able to concentrate on their work and sometimes they were forced to take casual leave after watching TV during late hours.

However, majority of the people were of the view that parental guidance can contain the children from watching TV during late hours. It is also the opinion of most of the people that these things are within one's own control.